

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABUD, AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FINANCE: FIFTH COMMITTEE 1771ST MEETING,
DECEMBER 15

1. SUMMARY: FIFTH COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DEBATE ON UN PENSION SYSTEM. REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO GA ON PENSION SYSTEM WAS ADOPTED. JIU INSPECTORS WERE GRANTED DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS. AFTER APPROVING COMMITTEE REPORT ON UN PENSION SYSTEM, COMMITTEE CONSIDERED UNIDO, APPROVING UPPER VOLTA DRAFT DECISION BY 83(US)-0-9(SOVIET BLOC, COLOMBIA, MADAGASCAR) AND APPROPRIATION OF \$45,167,000 BY 82(US)-7(SOVIET BLOC)-0. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE APPROVED SYG REQUEST \$240,000 FOR UNCTAD BY VOTE OF 50-13(US, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, UK, SOVIET BLOC)-23(WEO'S, SOME AFRICANS AND ASIANS). COMMITTEE APPROVED DRAFT RESOLUTION CREATING 54-MEMBER "NEGOTIATING" COMMITTEE TO WORK FOR SOLUTION OF UN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS 65(US)-0-11(SOVIET BLOC). END SUMMARY.

2. UN PENSION SYSTEM. AT OPENING OF DEBATE, CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON PARAGRAPHS IN COMMITTEE REPORT ON NATIONALITY ISSUE. HE READ TO COMMITTEE NEW
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PARAGRAPH 28 SUBMITTED BY US WHICH CALLS ATTENTION TO

OPPOSITION BY SOME DELEGATIONS TO SOVIET DRAFT DECISION ON NATIONALITY OF MEMBERS OF PENSION BOARD.

CHAIRMAN THEN PROPOSED NEW PARA IN DRAFT REPORT WHICH WOULD STATE THAT FIFTH COMMITTEE CONCURRED WITH RECOMMENDATION OF ACC SUPPORTED BY ACABQ, THAT JIU BE COVERED FOR DEATH AND DISABILITY IN SOME FASHION AS STAFF MEMBERS. (PARA 2 OF A/10374). PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

3. UNIDO - PROGRAM BUDGET SECTION 12. ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE EXPLAINED THAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED NO CUTS EXCEPT FOR 2 OF 3 ASYG POSTS REQUESTED. HE SAID QUITE BLUNTLY THAT SYG REQUEST DID NOT COME UP TO USUAL STANDARDS OF JUSTIFYING BUDGETARY REQUESTS.

ALGERIA SUPPORTED BY EGYPT SAID BUDGET DIVISION SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE TO HELP UNIDO STAFF CARRY OUT DIRECTIVES OF LIMA DECLARATION. UPPER VOLTA MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT CRITICAL OF UNIDO BUDGET PRESENTATION AND ASKED FOR NEW SYG PRESENTATION NEXT YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH DRAFT DECISION (L/1292). UPPER VOLTA POSITION WAS SUPPORTED BY INDIA, VENEZUELA, AND JAPAN. PHILIPPINES AND BELGIUM ASKED QUESTIONS. BUDGET DIRECTOR LAVAU, ANSWERING QUESTIONS SAID GROWTH OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMS WAS ABOUT 5 PERCENT.

PERU SUPPORTED BY MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND EGYPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PREAMBLE REAFFIRMING GA RES 3362 (S-VII) WHICH ENDORSES LIMA DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION AND AMENDMENT TO OP PARA 2 "...PROVIDING A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE WHICH WOULD FULLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT..." SPONSORS ACCEPTED FIRST, BUT REJECTED SECOND PERUVIAN AMENDMENT, WHICH PERU LATER WITHDREW. COMMITTEE THEN APPROVED OP PARA 1 BY VOTE OF 82(US,ROMANIA)-1(MADAGASCAR)-8(SOVIET BLOC, COLOMBIA, BENIN) AND OP PARA 2 BY VOTE OF 84(US,ROMANIA)-0-6(SOVIET BLOC). DECISION AS A WHOLE WAS THEN ADOPTED BY 83(US, ROMANIA)-0-9(SOVIET BLOC, COLOMBIA, MADAGASCAR). COMMITTEE THEN APPROVED APPROPRIATION OF \$45,167,000 BY VOTE OF 82(US, ROMANIA)-7(SOVIET BLOC)-0.

IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE, FRG, US AND FRANCE CRITICIZED SYG PRESENTATION FOR LACK OF JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS
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REQUESTED AND URGED GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN SYG (WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUDGET UNTIL UNIDO BECOMES SPECIALIZED AGENCY) AND UNIDO. US ALSO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT PREAMBLE, REFERRING TO POSITIONS STATED IN SECOND COMMITTEE. NETHERLANDS DEPLORED LACK OF TIME TO GIVE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION.

4. REVISED ESTIMATES OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE INTRODUCED REPORT IN A/10008/ADD.17 AND

EXPLAINED THAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DID NOT RECOMMEND DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE RE EXTERNAL INDEBTEDNESS, BUT SIMPLY THOUGHT SYG SHOULD AWAIT RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FROM COUNTRIES DESIRING ASSISTANCE BEFORE FORMULATING DETAILED APPROPRIATION REQUESTS. COLOMBIA FORMALLY PROPOSED RESTORATION OF FULL AMOUNT (\$240,000) REQUESTED BY SYG AND WAS SUPPORTED BY INDIA, ALGERIA, AFGHANISTAN. DESPITE EFFORTS BY MSELLE (IN REPLY TO US QUESTION) DENMARK, USSR AND POLAND TO EXPLAIN THRUST OF ACABQ PROPOSAL AND UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT BY IRAN TO HAVE VOTE FIRST ON PRIORITY BETWEEN ACABQ AND COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL. COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY RECORDED VOTE OF 50-13(US, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, UK AND SOVIET BLOC)-23(MOST WEO'S, IVORY COAST, JORDAN, LIBERIA, MALAYSIA, SIERRA LEONE, SINGAPORE, SWAZILAND, THAILAND).

5. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE UN. FRG SAID IT SUPPORTED DRAFT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY PAKISTAN BUT THOUGHT WITHHOLDING, NOT LATE PAYMENTS, WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE DEFICIT. THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE SHOULD DETERMINE WHY THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND IS SO DEPLETED AND FIND WAYS TO RESTORE IT. ALSO COMPLAINED THAT SECRETARIAT HAD PROVIDED VERY LITTLE INFO ON HOW THE PRESENT DEFICIT HAS BEEN FINANCED AND PRECISELY WHAT THE CASH PROBLEM IS. PAKISTAN SAID THE CO-SPONSORS ACCEPTED ONE OF THE TWO PROPOSED SOVIET AMENDMENTS (REFERENCE IN PARA 4 TO THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE 1965 CONSENSUS ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION). HOWEVER THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OTHER (REFERENCE TO ELIMINATING CAUSES IN UN BUDGET LEADING TO DEFICIT INCREASES) SINCE ALTHOUGH THIS WAS A PROBLEM WHICH THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE COULD GO INTO, WORDING OF THIS KIND IN THE RESOLUTION WOULD PREJUDGE THE ISSUE. AS TO SIZE OF COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED 54 MEMBERS BEST SO THAT PARTICIPATION WOULD BE BROAD BUT EACH MEMBER WOULD HAVE REAL COMMITMENT AND QUORUMS COULD BE OBTAINED. DID NOT THINK IT SHOULD BE OPEN-ENDED. URGED UNCLASSIFIED

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DELEGATIONS TO SIGN UP. GREECE EXPLAINED WHY IT HAD NOT PURSUED IDEA OF INCREASING WORKING CAPITAL FUND NOW BUT SUGGESTED THAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO REPLENISHING IT AT REGULAR INTERVALS. NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JAN 1976 AS TEMPORARY MEASURE IT WOULD ALLOW PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST DUE IT AS UN BONDHOLDER TO BE OFFSET AGAINST ITS CONTRIBUTION TO BUDGET. USSR SAID IT BELIEVED NEW COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE BROAD MANDATE AND HENCE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS SECOND AMENDMENT WHICH REFERRED TO WHAT IS AFTER ALL THE MAIN PROBLEM, SAID WE WOULD BE IN VICIOUS CIRCLE AS IN THE PAST IF THIS PROBLEM NOT DEALT WITH. AGREED TO WITHDRAW AMENDMENT, BUT WOULD ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION. RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED 65(US)-0-11(SOVIET BLOC, CONGO, BENIN). CHINA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN VOTE. MOYNIHAN

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